

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 23, with the following:

FIG. 4 illustrates one example of how a time offset can be implemented. The time of transmission of the access preamble 202A may be offset by T_{off} with respect to the boundary ~~302~~ 203 of the access slot (which is itself defined relative to timing signals transmitted by the BS 100). The access preamble 202A, 202B comprises 4096 chips, while the length of the access slot is 5120 chips. By allowing timing offsets T_{off} of multiples of 256 chips, up to 19 different non-zero values of T_{off} are possible without introducing ambiguity about which slot contained the access preamble 202A, 202B. When $T_{\text{off}}=0$ the behaviour of the system is identical to that of a system without the possibility of timing offsets, thereby enabling backwards compatibility with a MS 110 not having the capability to process timing offsets.